United Nations S/PRST/2006/39

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 September 2006

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5529th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 September 2006, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security", the President of the Security Council issued the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its previous relevant resolutions and presidential statements on the cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and its three previous meetings on this subject held on April 2003 under the Mexican Presidency and on July 2004 and October 2005 under the Romanian Presidency.

"Member States emphasized that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and that the establishment of a more effective partnership between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations, consistent with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, would contribute to the maintenance of peace and security.

"The Security Council notes the start of the practice of annual Secretary-General's high-level meetings, their high-level attendance and their broadening substantive agenda; The Security Council notes that the 7th high-level meeting takes place immediately after its meeting on 20 September 2006, and the President of the Security Council has been invited to report the results of that meeting to the 7th high-level meeting.

"The Security Council welcomes the progress made in realizing the goals of Resolution 1631 (2005), as elaborated by the Secretary-General in his report (A/61/204; S/2006/590), and commends the efforts of the Secretary-General in strengthening partnerships with regional, subregional and other inter-governmental organizations on peace and security, thereby contributing to the realization of the recommendations of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (A/RES/60/1) for a stronger relationship between such organizations and the UN. The Security Council calls on the next Secretary-General to continue and strengthen these efforts.

06-52910 (E) 200906

"The Security Council notes that a working level meeting was organized by the Secretariat with regional and other intergovernmental organizations in early July 2006 to review the progress in implementing resolution 1631 and calls for this practice to continue in 2007.

"The Security Council stresses the benefits of closer cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the brokering of peace agreements in conflict situations. In this regard, the Security Council agreed, in its recently adopted Note of the President of the Security Council on the Work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions (S/2006/507) to expand consultation and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations by:

- Inviting relevant regional and subregional organizations to participate in the Security Council's public and private meetings, when appropriate;

- Continuing to consult informally with regional and subregional organizations when drafting, inter alia, resolutions, presidential statements and press statements, as appropriate;

- Drawing the attention of representatives of regional and subregional organizations where appropriate to relevant resolutions, presidential statements and press statements.

"Encourages regional and subregional organizations to convey their perspectives and analysis to the Security Council prior to its examination of regionally-relevant agenda items.

"Invites all regional and subregional organizations that have a capacity for peacekeeping or rapid response in crisis situations to enhance their working relations with the United Nations Secretariat and cooperate with the Secretariat to determine the conditions in which this capacity could contribute to the fulfilment of UN mandates and goals.

"Invites the Secretariat and regional and subregional organizations to explore further information-sharing on respective capabilities and lessons-learnt in peacekeeping by expanding the scope of the website of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section to cover the deployment experiences of all regional and subregional organizations and all experiences of cooperation in peacekeeping between the United Nations and these organizations.

"The Security Council takes note of the Secretary-General's Progress Report on the prevention of armed conflict, including its recognition of the role played by regional and subregional organizations. The Security Council urges United Nations Secretariat and United Nations agencies, as well as all States and other relevant international organizations to continue their efforts to contribute to the capacity building of regional and subregional organizations, in particular of the African Union and African subregional organizations which play a useful role in brokering peace agreements, in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict stabilization.

"Welcomes the intent of many regional and subregional organizations to be closely associated with the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and commits to facilitating their participation, as relevant, in the country-specific activities of the Commission.

"Equally welcomes efforts underway to enhance cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and regional and subregional organizations in mediation and peacemaking, and invites the Secretariat to expand without delay its Peacemaking databank to regional and subregional organizations so as to facilitate mutual information and exchanges of experience.

"Notes with appreciation the efforts of an increasing number of regional and subregional organizations, working with the Security Council's subsidiary bodies, to address the threats to international peace and security posed by acts of terrorism, and calls on them to intensify their activity to develop the counter-terrorism capacity of their Member States.

"Urges regional and sub-regional organizations to assist States, as appropriate, in implementing existing agreements and enhance efforts to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including via more effective regional mechanisms. The Security Council also urges regional and subregional organizations to encourage their Member States to strengthen their legislations in this field.

"The Security Council recalls the relevant paragraphs of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (A/RES/60/1) and notes with gratitude the many steps that the Secretary-General has undertaken to strengthen the relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional and other intergovernmental organizations. In this context, the Security Council intends to consider further steps to promote closer and more operational cooperation between the UN and regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations, participating in the High Level Meetings convened by the Secretary-General, in particular in the field of conflict prevention, peace-building and peacekeeping."